

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-19 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, and 10 have been canceled.

SECOND REPLY AFTER FINAL

This is a Second Reply After Final filed in response to the Advisory Action dated May 25, 2007.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-4, 9, 11/1-15/11, and 16-19, and maintained rejection of claims 5, 6, 10, and 11/10-15/10.

In view of this determination, claims 5, 6, and 10 have been canceled, and claims 11-15 have been amended to variously depend from claim 1 to place this application for condition for allowance.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of claims 1-4, 9, 11/1-15/11, and 16-19 is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nanbu et al. (USP 6,676,152). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 10-13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Horton et al. (USP 6,629,703). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claims 11-13 and 15 has been amended to variously depend only from claim 1.
Therefore, these claims are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 14/10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horton in view of Nanbu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend only from claim 1 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-4, 11/1-15-1, and 16-19 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

for By  (reg. # 40,417)
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